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BOROUGH OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR - 1942

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BOROUGH OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year

1942

J. Andrew & Co. Ltd., Printers, "Reporter" Office, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne

NOVEMBER, 1942

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Alderman Sheard, J.P.

Deputy-Chairman: Councillor Hague.

The Mayor, Alderman Massey, J.P., Councillors Arnold, Flowers, Green, J.P., Hannan, Hilton, J.P., Ibbotson, and Mrs. Mamourian, J.P.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Farley.

Deputy-Chairman: Councillor Mrs. Mamourian, J.P.

The Mayor, Councillors Arnold, Flowers, Hall, Hannan, Oldham, Townsley, Mrs. Wild, J.P., and Mr. Ralphs.

TOWN HALL CHAMBERS,
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

MR. MAYOR, MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit a short report on the health of the borough for the year 1942. The necessity for brevity has been pointed out in previous reports and a preservation of all records made in case they should be required for future reference.

No outbreak of serious disease has occurred during the year.

The incidence of measles increased from ~~January~~ JUNE to the end of the year, reaching a peak in July. Scarlet Fever was prevalent during the latter part of the year, but the cases were mild and scattered throughout the borough.

The Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign was continued. The percentage of the child population immunised at the end of 1942 was:—

55% of the children between the ages of 5 and 15 years.
38% of children under 5 years of age.

Two War-time Nurseries were opened during the year—the West End Nursery in February, and the Hurst Nursery in November.

The incidence of Scabies was higher. The powers given under the Scabies Order, 1941, were valuable in dealing with difficult cases.

The Maternal Mortality rate of 1.4 is the lowest recorded in the Borough, as also is the Infantile Mortality Rate of 39.

In February, arrangements were made in conjunction with the Labour Exchange for adopting the Daily Guardians Scheme, whereby children under 5 are cared for during the day. The Register of Daily Guardians is kept at the W.V.S. Office.

For the various rates I would refer you to the appropriate sections of the report.

Commending this report to your notice,

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

MARY EVANS,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Staff of the Health Department

Medical.

Alan S. Simpson, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Officer, Superintendent of Infectious Diseases Hospital. (Now serving with H.M. Forces.)

Mary Evans, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Acting Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare.

David Halpern, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., Temporary Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer. (Resigned, 27th June, 1942. Now serving with H.M. Forces).

John Edward Dovey, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M., & H., Temporary Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer. (Appointed 20/6/1942).

Sanitary Inspectors.

C. Sykes Handforth, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., M.Inst.P.C., Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, etc.

Herbert Hunter, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, etc.

W. L. Barnsley, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, etc.

J. Sagar, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, etc. (Resigned 30/4/42).

J. Kay, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, etc. (Appointed 15/6/42).

Health Visitors.

Nurse Parkinson, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate (Superintendent).

,, Chamberlain, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate.

,, Weir, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate.

,, Brett, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate.

,, Cleary, S.R.N,, S.C.M., H.V. Certificate.

,, Micklethwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certfiicate.

Clerks.

C. Sharples, A. Hartley, E. McCabe, P. Crook.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	M.	F.	Total.
Total Live Births	340 ...	347 ...	687

Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 14.9

	M.	F.	Total.
Still Births	14 ...	14 ...	28

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths	323 ...	309 ...	632

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 14.0

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Puerperal Causes	1	1.4
	1	1.4

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age 27

Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births 39

Causes of Death
during the Year 1942.

	M.	F.	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	0	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	1
Diphtheria	0	2	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	16	9	25
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	2	3	5
Syphilitic Disease	3	0	3
Influenza	5	0	5
Measles	1	0	1
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	0	0	0
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	1	1	2
M. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Males only)	4	0	4
F. Cancer of Uterus	0	6	6
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	14	9	23
Cancer of Breast	0	7	7
Cancer of all other sites (with 3 Sub. groups)	29	29	58
Diabetes	2	2	4
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	26	37	63
Heart Disease (with 4 Sub. groups)	101	102	203
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ...	9	7	16
Bronchitis	26	18	44
Pneumonia	10	10	20
Other Respiratory Diseases	5	4	9
Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum ...	4	1	5
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0	1	1
Appendicitis...	1	2	3
Other Digestive Diseases (with 4 Sub. groups)	5	6	11
Nephritis	8	10	18
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis (with 2 Sub. groups)	0	1	1
Other Maternal Causes (with 2 Sub. groups)	0	0	0
Premature Birth	3	1	4
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease (with 2 Sub. groups)	4	7	11
Suicide	2	1	3
Road Traffic Accidents	2	2	4
Other Violent Causes	11	9	20
All Other Causes (with 14 Sub. groups) ...	27	22	49
	323	309	632

Notification of Births

(Public Health Act, 1936, Section 203).

The Act requires that all births occurring in the area of Ashton-under-Lyne (after the 28th week of pregnancy, whether alive or still) shall be sent to the Medical Officer of Health within 36 hours of the birth. All births occurring within the area are, therefore, notified to me whether the parent is a resident or a non-resident of Ashton-under-Lyne.

			Total Notified	Ashton Residents
Number of Live Births...	Notified	Male ..... 823 Female ... 789	1612	687
Number of Still Births ...	Notified	Male ..... 37 Female ... 31	68	28

By Institutions:—	
Lake Hospital	1083
District Infirmary ...	291
Nursing Homes	48
Midwives	256
Doctors	2
	1680

Notifications received by Department included above, but transferred elsewhere 965.

Total Notified Births allocated to Ashton-under-Lyne ... 715

Percentage of Total Notified Births (Live and Still) received from	(a) Institutions and Nursing Homes	85%
	(b) Municipal Midwives	15%

Midwives Practising in the Area.

There were five midwives practising in the area during 1942, and all five were Municipal Midwives appointed by the Lancashire County Council.

Maternal Mortality.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Total Births *i.e.*, Live and Still).	Puerperal Sepsis	0.00
	Other Puerperal Causes	1.40
	Total ...	1.40

The cause of the one Maternal Death was a very early abortion.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

This Clinic is held every Friday afternoon, one week at the Richmond Street Centre, and the following week at Enville House Centre.

Fifty-one sessions were held during 1942, and 236 expectant mothers made 1,098 attendances.

This figure of 236 represents an attendance of 42 per cent. of the total notified (live and still) births.

Post-Natal Clinics.

This Clinic is held on the first Thursday afternoon in the month at Enville House Centre.

There were 10 sessions in the year and the number of patients who attended was 72. This figure shows an increase over the previous year of 25.

War-Time Nurseries

Two whole-time War-time Nurseries were opened during the the year—one at the West End Council School and the other at Hurst. They are provided for children from 1 to 5 years of age whose parents are on work of National Importance. The parents pay a shilling a day for each child.

The hours of attendance are 6-30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and 6-30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Breakfast, dinner and tea are provided. The dinner is brought in from the School Canteen Kitchen.

1. The West End Nursery was opened in February, 1942, for the reception of children, and was formally opened by Lady Jowitt, on the 14th March, 1942.

   The maximum number of children accommodated in groups is:—

   19 in 1 to 2 years group;
   26 in 2 to 5 years group.

   The Education Committee generously loaned to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee the use of the two existing schoolrooms, cloakroom, and toddlers' w.c.s, and the enclosed part of the playground and lawn. A new Maycrete Hut erected adjacent to and leading from the existing building provides a Kitchen, Milk Room, Store Room, Bathroom, Laundry, Staff Room, Matron's Room and Isolation Room. The cost of the alterations, new building and equipment was paid by the Ministry of Health. There is a staff of:—

   Matron,
   Deputy-Matron,
   Teacher,
   Nursery Nurse,
   Five Nursery Assistants and one Part-time (Probationers or Child Care Reserves),
   Two Domestic Helps and one Part-time.

2. The Hurst Nursery was opened in November. The maximum number of children accommodated in groups is:

   14 in the 1 to 2 years group,
   18 in the 2 to 5 years group.

The existing school building was adapted with the addition of a new building for Laundry, Staff Room and Toddlers' W.C.

The existing building is partitioned into a Toddlers' Room and a Babies' Nursery, Isolation Room, Matron's Room, Bathroom and Kitchen.

There is a Staff of:—

Matron,
Teacher,
Deputy-Matron,
Nursery Nurse,
2 Nursery Assistants (C.C.R.),
2 Domestic Helps,
1 Part-time Caretaker.

INFANT MORTALITY

The causes of the 27 deaths were as follows:—

Whooping Cough	1
Enteritis	1
Congenital Malformations	2
Premature Birth	3
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	4
Injury at Birth	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	4
Suffocation (overlying)	2
Other Causes	9
	27

Child Welfare Centres

The work at the Infant Welfare Centres has been well maintained during 1942, and the following figures show the number of sessions held, the number of consultations and the weighings carried out at the Centres:—

Consultations held	128
Attendances at Consultations	2213
Number of Weighings of Children	8416

Total number of attendances at all Centres during the year:

(1) By children under 1 year of age	7176
(2) By children between the ages of 1 and 5 ...	1862

Total number of children who attended at the Centres during the year and who, at the end of the year were:—

(1) Under 1 year of age	507
Percentage of notified live births represented by this figure, 73%.	
(2) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	115

Total number of children who attended at the Centres during the year and who, at the end of the year were:—

(1) Under 1 year of age	400
(2) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	530

The fact that 73% of the total notified births are brought to the Welfare Centres is an indication that the work is of value and appreciated by the parents.

Provision of Dried Milk

During 1942, 15,725 packets of dried milk were sold at the Centres.

1,193 were sold at half-price, and 3,582 were provided free, in accordance with the income scale adopted.

The net cost to the Council amounted to £222 11s. 1d.

Orthopædic Treatment

Number of pre-school children attending Clinic 93

A classification of the conditions for which the above 93 individual children were treated is set out below:—

1. Genu-Valgum (knock-knee)	35
2. Genu-Varum (bow-leg)	4
3. Torticollis (Wry-neck)	9
4. Infantile Paralysis	5
5. Traumatic or Inflamatory Conditions ...	4
6. Congenital Deformities	17
7. Other Conditions	10
8. Unclassified	9
	93

Two cases were referred to Biddulph Hospital for treatment on account of the following defects:—

Sub-Synovitis Right Hip Joint	1
Syndactyly Right Hand	1

Artificial Sunlight Clinic

Ninety-three children made 1,746 attendances.

Child Life Protection

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Sections 206—220.

(a) Number of persons who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year 7

(b) Number of children on the register at the and of the year 7

(c) Number of Child Protection Visitors at the end of the year who were Health Visitors 6

Nursing Homes

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Sections 187—195.

The Lancashire County Council have delegated their powers under the above Act to the Ashton-under-Lyne Borough Council who are the supervising authority for this purpose.

There is one Nursing Home registered in the Borough at:—
24, Villiers Street.

The Medical Officer of Health made 2 inspections during the year.

Housing Statistics

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))

(1) By Local Authority ... ... Nil.

(2) By other Local Authorities ... ... Nil.

(3) By other bodies or persons ... ... Nil.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—

(1) By the Local Authority (included under (a) (1) above) ... ... Nil.

(2) By other bodies or persons (included under (a) (3) above) ... ... Nil.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The following table shows the results of samples taken under this head:—

Sample No.	Type of Milk	Methylene Blue Test.	Coliform Test	Bacteria per c.c.	B.Coli in 1/100 c.c.
1.	Pasteurised ...			133,000	Present
2.	,, ...			13,600	Absent
3.	Ordinary ...	Satisfactory	Satisfactory ...	—	—
4.	,, ...	,, ...	,, ...	—	—
5.	,, ...	,, ...	,, ...	—	—
6.	,, ...	,, ...	,, ...	—	—
7.	,, ...	,, ...	,, ...	—	—
8.	,, ...	,, ...	,, ...	—	—
9.	,, ...	,, ...	,, ...	—	—
10.	,, ...	,, ...	,, ...	—	—
11.	Pasteurised ...	,,	Unsatisfactory	—	—
12.	,, ...	,, ...	,, ...	—	—
13.	Ordinary ...	— ...	—	9,600,000	Present
14.	Pasteurised ...	— ...	— ...	360,000	Absent
15.	,, ...	— ...	— ...	237,000	Present
16.	,, ...	— ...	— ...	176,000	Present
17.	Ordinary ...	Satisfactory	Satisfactory ...	—	—
18.	,, ...	,,	Unsatisfactory	—	—
19.	,, ...	,, ...	,, ...	—	—
20.	,, ...	,,	Satisfactory ...	—	—
21.	,,	Unsatisfactory...	,, ...	—	—
22.	,, ...	,, ...	,, ...	—	—
23.	,, ...	Satisfactory...	,, ...	—	—
24.	Pasteurised ...	— ...	— ...	54,000	Present
25.	,, (Bottled)	— ...	—	1,300,000	Present
26.	,, (Churn)	— ...	—	1,000,000	Present
27.	,, (Botlg Mach)	— ...	— ...	74,000	Absent
28.	Pasteurised ...	— ...	— ...	139,000	Absent
29.	,, ...	— ...	— ...	85,000	Present
30.	,, ...	— ...	— ...	32,000	Absent
31.	,, ...	— ...	...	225,000	Present
32.	,, ...	— ...	— ...	97,000	Present

The Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year were as follows:—

Disease	Total Cases at all Ages	Total Deaths	Hospital	
			Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	42	2	37	2
Erysipelas	20	—	7	—
Scarlet Fever	86	—	43	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	28	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	8	1	5	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	8	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	80	20	—	—
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	5	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	49	25	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	27	5	—	—
Measles	521	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	39	1	—	—
Polio Encephalitis	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	915	54	92	2

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children immunised during the year:—

(a) Children under 5 years of age	415
(b) School Children	295
	710

Pneumonia.

Number of cases notified during the year 77

The Nurses from the Ashton and District Sick Nursing Association made 907 visits to 58 cases of Pneumonia.

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1942:—

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	30	19	12	15	16	9	2	3
Totals	49		27		25		5	

Venereal Disease

Public Health (Venereal Diseases) Regulations, 1916.

The Lancashire County Council, who administer these regulations, have a treatment centre at the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary.

The following shows the work carried out at the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary during the year 1942:—

Patients under treatment at 1st January, 1942 ...	104
New cases admitted during 1942	166
Total attendances	2618
Patients receiving treatment at the end of 1942	125
Pathological examinations for V.D. patients ...	1155

Of the 166 new cases admitted during the year, 72 were Ashton residents. There is an increase in the incidence of Venereal Disease in the area due to war conditions.

Scabies

274 cases of Scabies were treated at the First-Aid Post. The clothing of persons attending was disinfected and in many instances the bedding was also treated. All known cases have been followed up and whole families treated.

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1942

Details of Inspections Made and Work Carried Out During 1942.

Number of inspections (including housing)	3342
Number of nuisances abated	1011
Number of visits to premises re defective and choked W.C.s, W.W.C.s, slop sinks, waste and soil pipes ...	449
Number of visits to common lodging-houses, furnished rooms and dwelling vans	219
Number of visits to slaughter-houses	210
Number of visits to cowsheds, milk shops, refreshment houses, ice cream makers and bakehouses	499
Number of visits to factories and workshops	108
Number of visits to offensive trade premises	36
Number of visits re rat infestations	92
Number of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act	91

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with Mechanical Power... ...	26	3	—
Factories without Mechanical Power ...	82	—	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)...	—	—	—
Total	108	3	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1) ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) — Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) — Unsuitable or Defective ...	3	3	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) — Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ... ... (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

During the year, ninety-one samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst, and the following table gives details of the samples taken:—

TABLE No. 1

Milk	85
Ice Cream	3
Valley Dessert Powder	1
Valley Custard Powder	1
Dessert Powder	1
	91

PARTICULARS OF ADULTERATION

No.	Article.	Adulteration or Offence.	Remarks.
185.	Milk	Dirty	Informal.
208.	Milk	4.8% Extraneous Water ...	,,
228.	Milk	5% Deficient in Fat	,,
258.	Milk	17.6% ,, ,, ...	,,
239.	Ice Cream ...	Absence of Milk-fat or any other fat	,,

Meat Inspection

TABLE No. 2

Carcases with all organs condemned as totally unfit for human consumption.

Animals.	Tuberculosis.	Accident.	Inflammatory Diseases	Other Conditions
Cows	15 ...	— ...	— ...	2
Bulls	1 ...	— ...	— ...	—
Bullocks	— ...	— ...	— ...	—
Calves	— ...	— ...	— ...	—
Sheep	— ...	— ...	— ...	5
Pigs	— ...	— ...	— ...	2

Carcases partially condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Animals.	Tuberculosis.	Accident.	Inflammatory Diseases	Other Conditions
Cows	16 ...	— ...	— ...	2
Bulls	6 ...	— ...	— ...	1
Bullocks	— ...	— ...	— ...	—
Calves	— ...	— ...	— ...	—
Sheep	— ...	— ...	— ...	—
Pigs	— ...	— ...	— ...	—
Heifers	3 ...	— ...	— ...	—

TABLE No. 3

Various Organs Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

	Heads	Tongues	Lungs	Livers	Stomachs	Hearts	Spleens	Mesenteries	Intestines	Udders	Kidneys	Diaphragms	Omentum.	Uterus
Tuberculosis:														
Bovines	109	109	224	45	10	18	9	68	68	3	8	20	3	—
Pigs	4	4	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammatory Diseases:														
Bovines	—	—	15	28	2	3	4	1	1	10	7	3	—	—
Pigs	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parasitic Diseases:														
Bovines	1	1	17	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs	—	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep	—	—	13	27	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table gives some idea of the work involved in this particular branch of my department:

No of visits to slaughter-houses during 1942	210
No. of visits to food premises and markets	374
No. of carcases inspected:—	
Cattle and Calves	1,651
Sheep and Lambs	8,580
Pigs	104
Total	10,335

The total weight of meat and offals destroyed during the year as diseased, unsound and unfit for the food of man was 24,562 lbs., or 10 tons 19 cwts, 1 qr. 6 lbs.